

R. TETTENHORST
P. O. Box 14020
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

February 7, 1991

Mr. Jonathan K. Kern
444 So. Ashland Avenue
Lexington, KY 40502

Dear Mr. Kern:

Thanks very much for the 1794 thin planchet. In answer to your question, my hunch is that you are correct in thinking that these are not error coins.

The evidence is as follows: I am aware of approximately half a dozen examples of these light weight, lettered edge coins. All of them are either the last variety of 1794 (C9) or the first two varieties of 1795 (C1 and C2). The weights of the planchets are all quite similar, and almost exactly the same as the weight subsequently used for the plain edge varieties of 1795 and later.

I believe that these were sample planchets prepared at the time that the reduction in weight was being contemplated, presumably late 1794. All the planchets had their edges lettered. A few were struck with the current dies, 1794 C9. The remaining blank planchets were dumped into the box with the other blank lettered edge planchets, which were thicker. These were used randomly in 1795 for striking C1 and C2.

My hunch further is that the sample striking of these thinner planchets in late 1794 convinced the authorities that they did receive acceptable impressions from the obverse and reverse dies, but that the planchets were too thin for the edge lettering to show fully. Therefore, the decision was made to use plain edge planchets for the production quantities of lighter weight coins in 1795 and later.

I have not compared the edge lettering on the 1797 letter edge half cents with these 1794 and 1795 thin planchet specimens, so I do not have an opinion at this time as to whether there is any connection between the two groups of lettered edge thin planchet half cents.

Does the above seem reasonable to you? I would welcome your opinion.

Sincerely,



R. Tettenhorst

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Enclosure (check)



Jonathan K. Kern
Professional Numismatist

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Lexington Ky. 40502
Phone (606) 269-1614
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INVOICE ☒ PURCHASE ORDER ☐

EXPENSE ACCT. NO.

NAME

R. Tetterhorst
PO Box 14020
St. Louis Mo 63178

Date paid	Invoice/date 1/29/91	Confirmation No:
Terms:	approval	Salesman JK
Wholesale	Retail IR	Interstate ✓
Signature:		VIA reg
Cash	Check No:	Trade ✓

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
1	1794 1/2 (- 9 V6/G		
	"thin planchet" @ 5.65 gm		
	= 87.2 grains		153.2
	I thought you might be interested.		
	It seems there are enough (?) for those lightweight		
	issues to be more than mint errors. What do you		
	think? Thank you, Jonathan K. Kern		
The merchandise described above remains the property of Jonathan K. Kern until paid for, and is subject to our order and shall be returned to us on demand. This merchandise, until returned to us and actually received, is at your own risk, from all hazards. No right or power is given to you to sell, pledge, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of this merchandise until paid for in full.		POSTAGE	
		TOTAL	



Thank You!